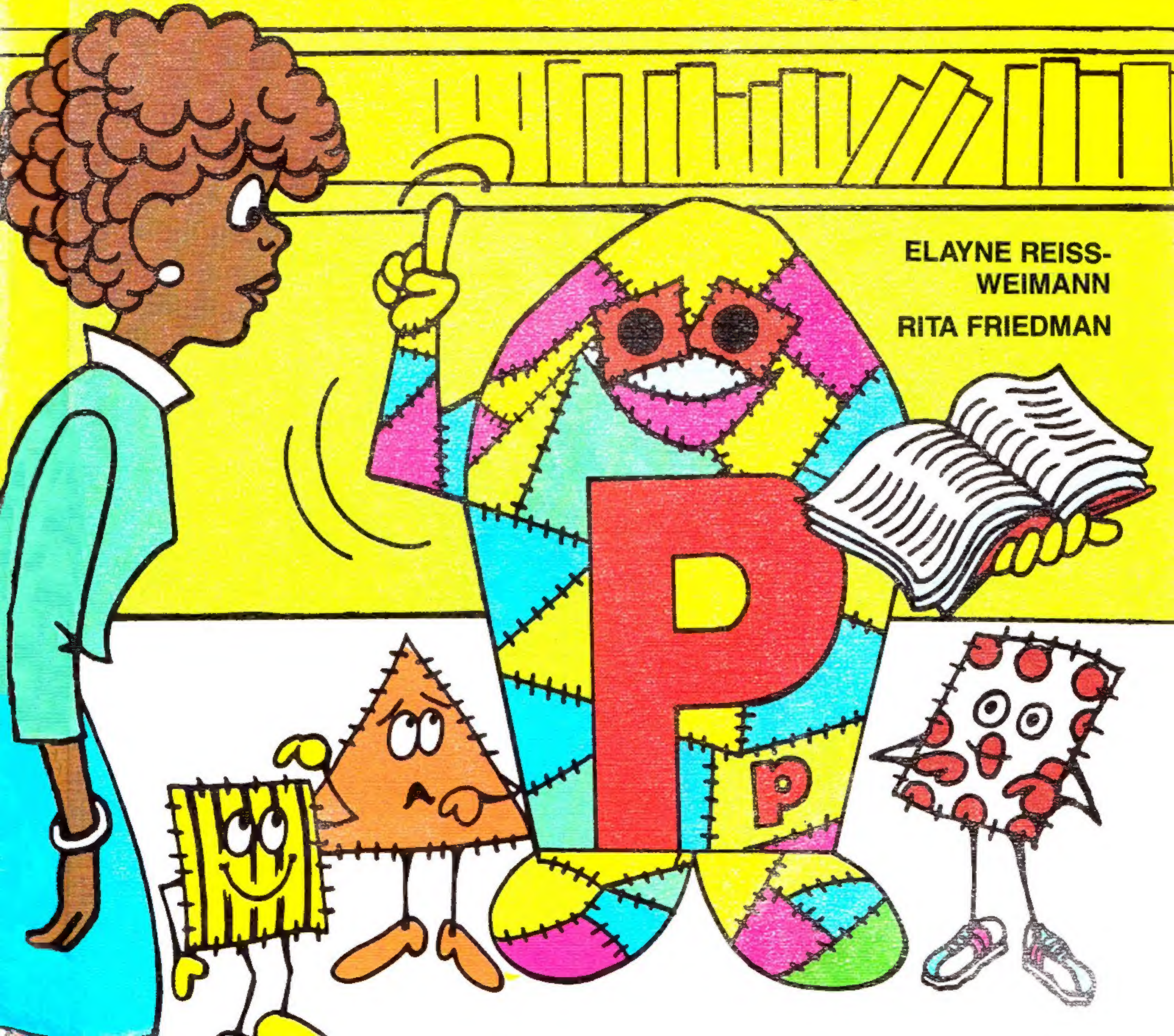


POPPING POINTY PATCHES



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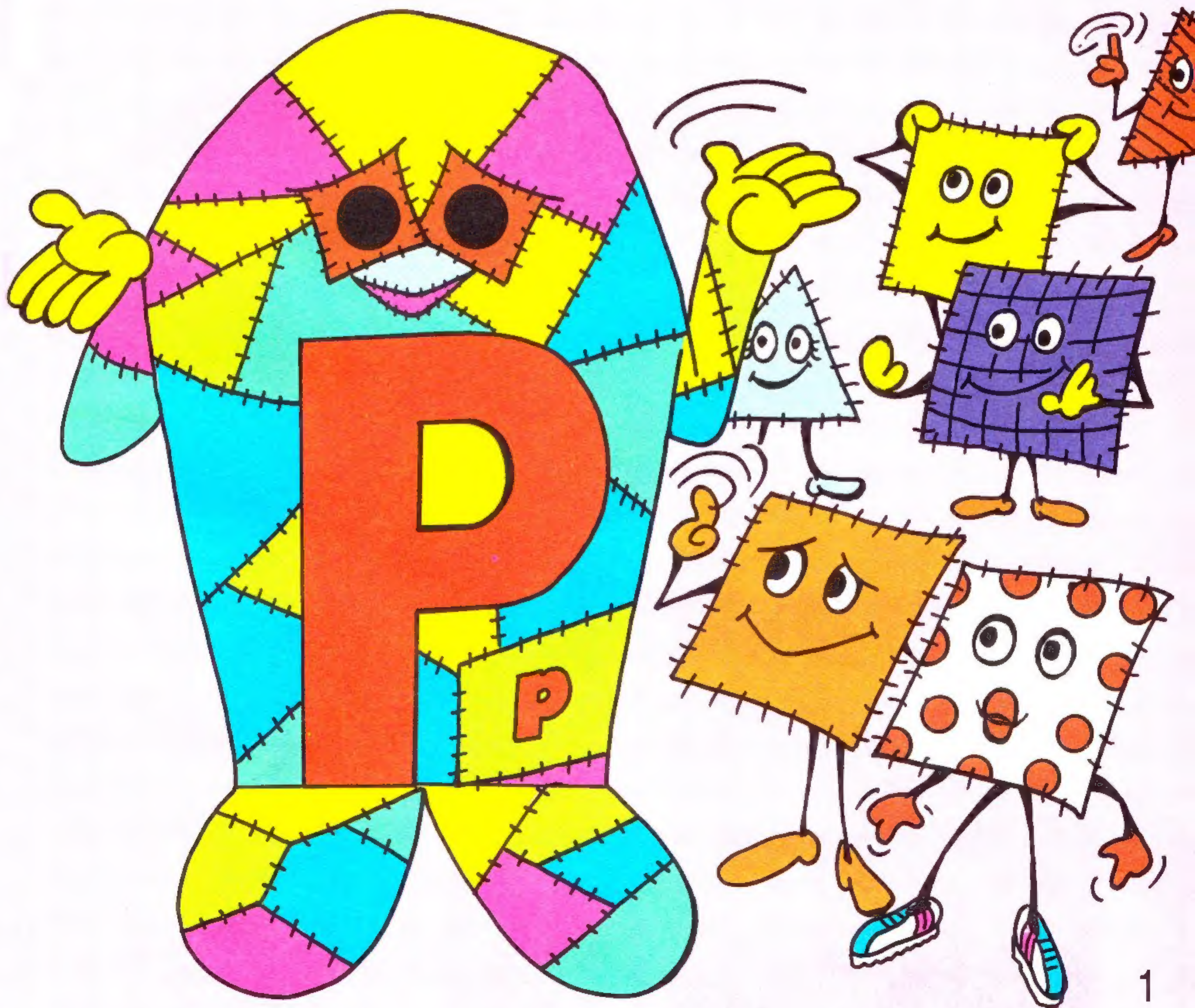


Mr. P is proud of his pointy patches.

“Pointy patches can be useful in many ways,” says Mr. P.

“Patches are only for covering holes,” people say.

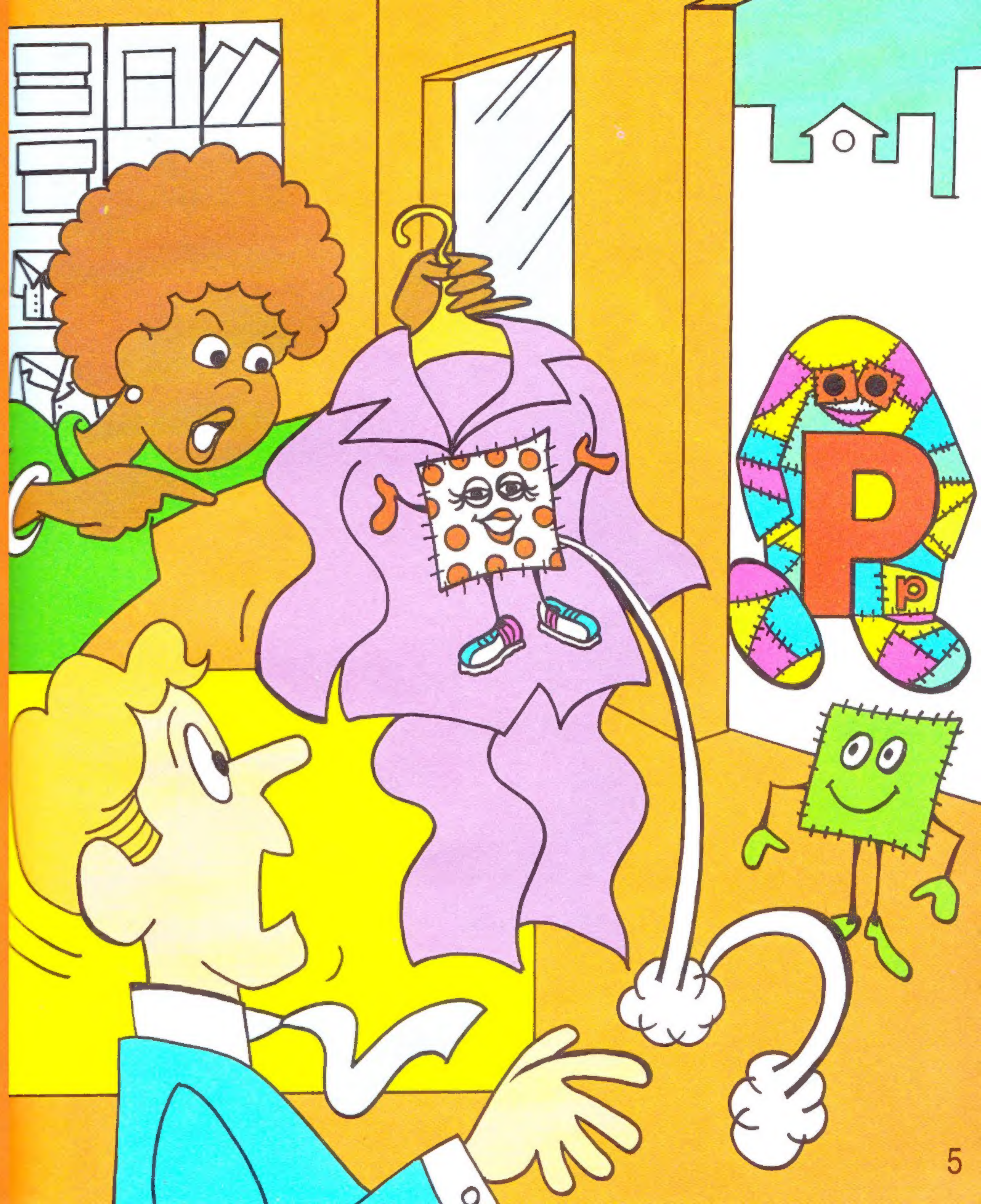
“Let us show you what we can do,” say the pointy patches.



Purple Patch sees a painter.
“Your pants need color,” says Purple Patch.
“I can give you color.
Watch me pop on your pocket.”
“Please, pop off my pocket,” says the painter.
“A patch is only for covering a hole.”



Polka Dot Patch sees a pair of pajamas.
“These pajamas need a polka dot,” she says.
“Watch me pop on the pajamas
and make them pretty.”
“Please pop off the pajamas,” says the salesperson.
“People will not purchase pajamas with a patch.
A patch is only for covering a hole.”



“People only want patches to cover holes,”
says Pink Patch.

“Patches want a chance to do other things.”

“I will try to find other jobs for you,” says Mr. P.
Mr. P telephones many people.

“Sorry,” they say.

“Patches are only good for covering holes.”

Then one day, people discover they are wrong.
It all starts at the library.



It is story time.
The librarian is reading a story aloud.
Suddenly, her throat feels sore.
“I must rest my voice,” she whispers.
After awhile, she tries to read aloud again.
The same thing happens.
“I am sorry,” says the librarian.
“We cannot have story time.”



The next day, Mr. P goes to the library.

"I will be pleased to read aloud for story time," he says.

Mr. P starts to read a story.

After awhile he stops.

"I cannot read aloud anymore," he whispers.

"My voice is very tired."

"No one is able to read aloud," sighs the librarian.

"We will not be able to have story time ever again."



Mr. P looks at all the pages in the books.
“The problem is not reading aloud,” he says.
“The problem is reading these books.”
“What’s wrong with these books?”
asks the librarian.
“The words go on and on, page after page.
There is never a place to pause
and rest your voice,” says Mr. P.
“Readers need a place to pause.”



Pointy patches can provide a place to pause," says Mr. P.

"Mr. P, how can we do that?" ask the patches.

"Just pop on the pages," answers Mr. P.

"Where on the pages do we pop?" ask the patches.

"People will help us discover the proper places for patches to pop," smiles Mr. P.



“People will take turns reading aloud,”
continues Mr. P.

“They must discover proper places to pause.
Each time a proper place is discovered,
they will say, ‘Pointy patch, pop on the page.’
There will be many pointy patches
popping on each page.”

“How can patches popping on pages help people
read aloud?” asks the librarian.



“Each pointy patch will be a signal to the reader,” explains Mr. P.

“A patch will say,
‘Pause for a second and rest your voice.
This is a pointy patch pause.’ ”

“I understand signals,” says Polka Dot Patch.

“When I cross the street, I look at the traffic light.
A traffic light is a crossing signal.
A pointy patch will be a reading signal.”



Everyone likes the idea of pointy patch pauses.
“We’ll take turns reading aloud,”
say the people.

“We’ll discover all the proper places
to have a pointy patch pause.”

The people and the patches work together.
Finally, every page in every book
has pointy patch pauses.

The patches are very proud.

No one has a problem reading aloud.



Then one day, the pointy patches decide to leave the pages.

“Something else must take our place,” they explain to Mr. P.

“Pointy patches are too large,” they say.

“The pages need something very small.”

“Something as small as a dot?” asks Mr. P.

“A dot!” shout the patches.

“A dot is perfect.”



“Dots can be printed on each page,”
says Pink Patch.

“Each dot will be the reading signal.
The dot will say, ‘Pause for a second.
Rest your voice.

This is a dot pause.’ ”

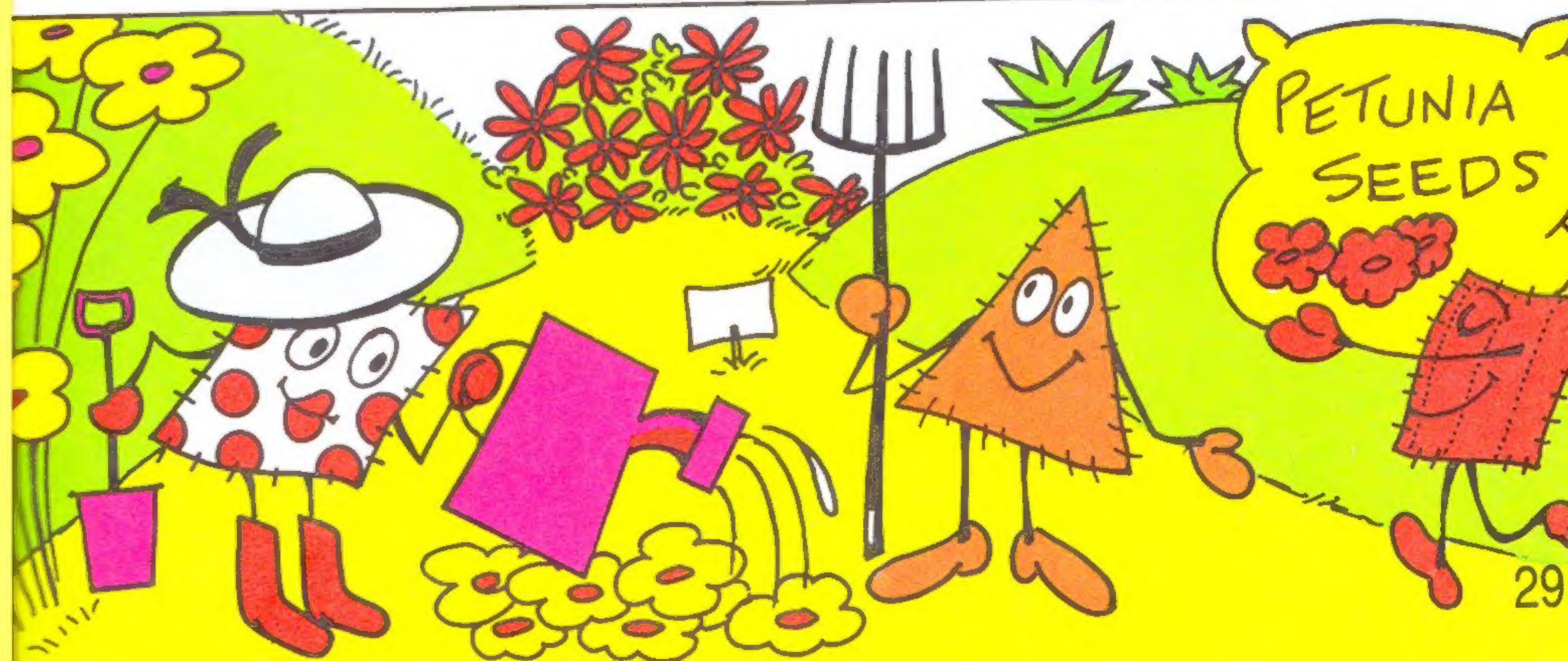
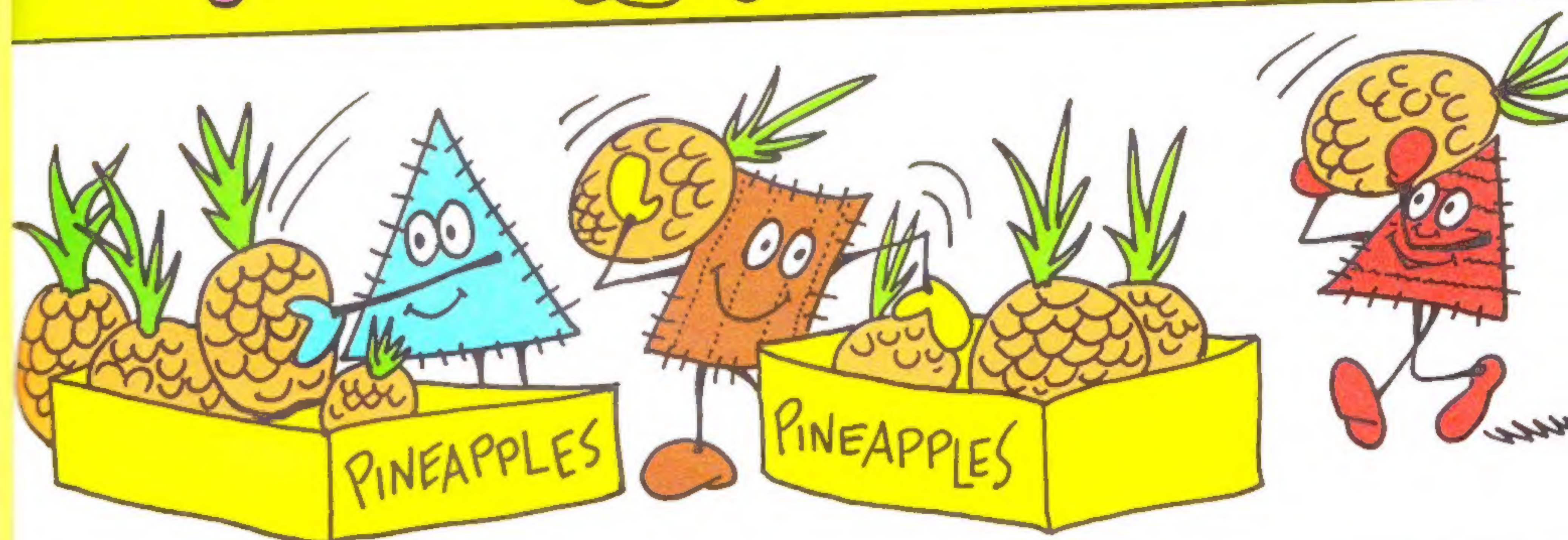
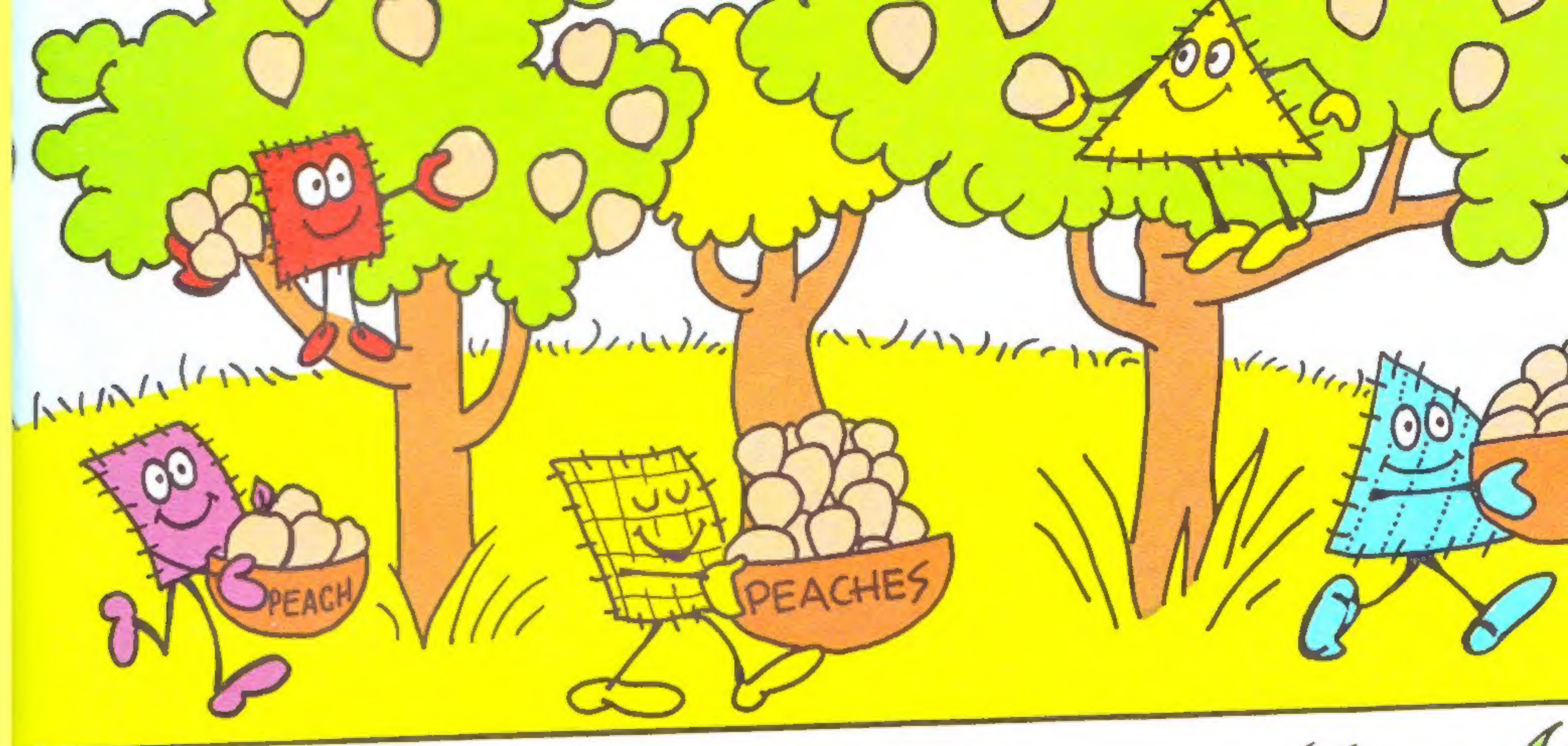
“A dot pause — I like it,” smiles Mr. P.



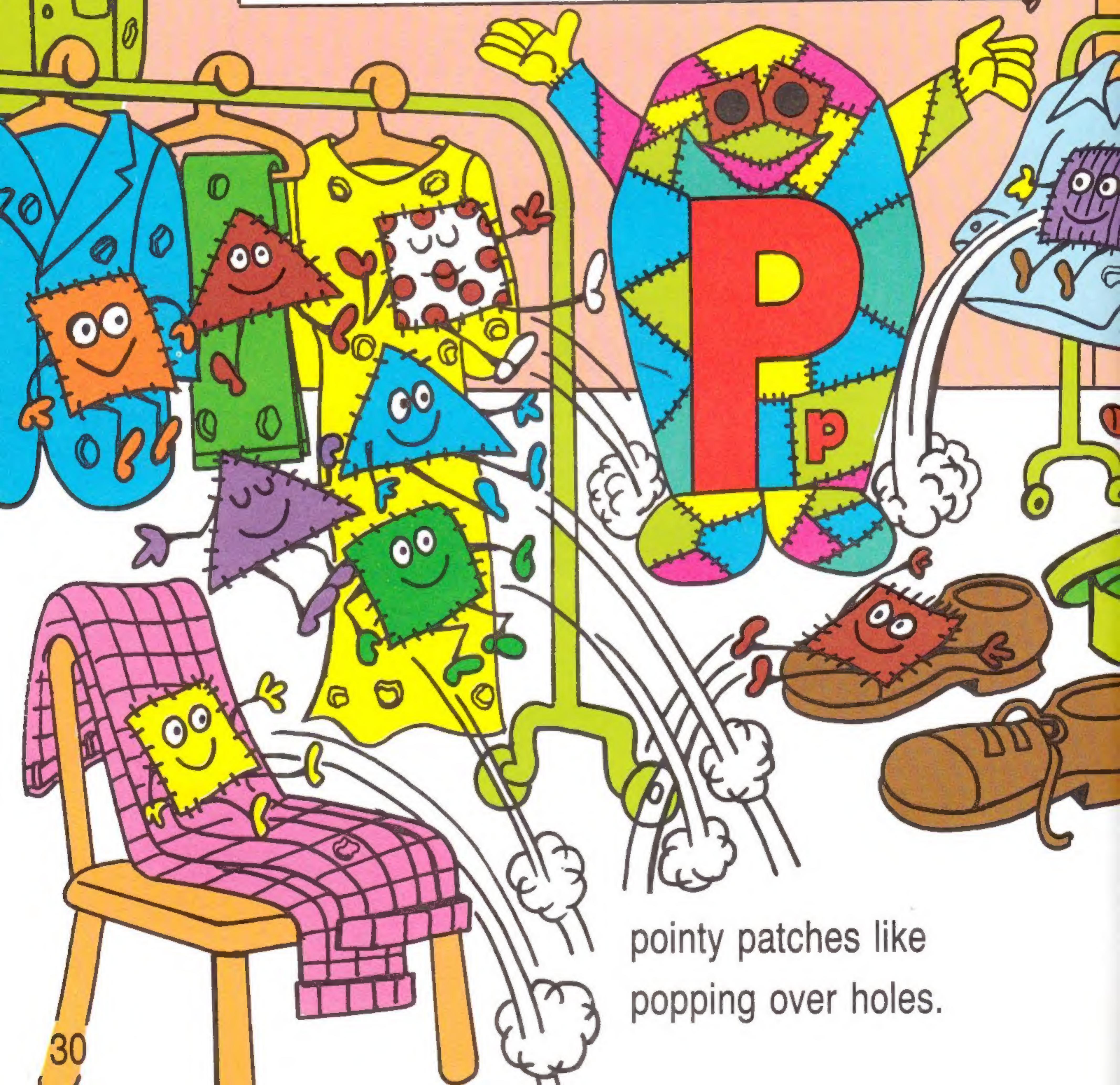
The printer likes the idea of dots.
“I can print dots on every page,” she says.
“However, I need the pointy patches
to work with me.
They can tell me the proper place
to print each dot.”
“We will be pleased to work with you,”
smile the patches proudly.



Soon, every page in every book has dot pauses.
Suddenly, people have jobs for the pointy patches.
Some pointy patches are picking peaches.
Others are packing pineapples
or planting petunias.
They are proud of their new positions.
However, best of all . . .



POINTY PATCH POP-ON PLACE



pointy patches like
popping over holes.